

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-02

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:GJB

APPROVED BY AF/C:WLCUTLER

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R 180019Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155306

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, CF

SUBJECT:NORMALIZATION US-CONGO RELATIONS

"FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

QUOTE

R 052150Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

1. GERMAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS PROVIDED DEPT WITH COPY OF MEMCON BETWEEN GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO BRAZZAVILLE AND CONGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL BOUNKOULOU. CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE ON FEB. 18, 1974. BOUNKOULOU TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT CONGOLESE GOVT IS READY TO NEGOTIATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH USG WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. BOUNKOULOU ALSO SAID THAT IDEOLOGICAL BARRIERS CAUSED BY VIETNAM WAR ALMOST COMPLETELY ELIMINATED, AND THAT CONGO INTERESTED IN PRAGMATIC FOREIGN POLICY BETWEEN SOVEREIGN STATES.

2. DEPT HAS FOLLOWED UP ON PREVIOUS INITIATIVES OF THIS TYPE DURING PAST THREE YEARS ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT INNER CORE OF CONGOLESE POWER STRUCTURE FELT THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION RENDERED NORMALIZATION INOPPORTUNE. MOST RECENT EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO.

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3. EXPERIENCES DESCRIBED PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH NOTWITHSTANDING, DEPT FEELS BOUNKOULOU'S STATEMENT TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR

MERITS LOW KEY FOLLOW-UP. LAST EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT TOOK PLACE ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AND INTERNAL CONGOLESE POLITICAL IMPERATIVES MAY NO LONGER BE OVERRIDING. IN ADDITION, BOUNKOULOU'S STATEMENT REPRESENT FIRST APPROACH THROUGH USG'S PROTECTING POWER IN BRAZZAVILLE.

4. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, DEPT WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR AMBASSADOR IN BRAZZAVILLE TO RETURN TO BOUNKOULOU AND INFORM HIM THAT USG PREPARED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON POSSIBLE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITIONS. TOWARD THIS END, WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO BRAZZAVILLE AT A TIME OF MUTUAL CONVENIENCE. IF CONGOLESE GOVT WOULD PREFER ANOTHER VENUE, USG WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE SUGGESTION. FRG AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN NOTE VERBALE OR AIDE MEMOIRE IF HE FEELS IT WOULD BE USEFUL. KISSINGER

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